



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Specialty Crops County Estimates
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Quarterly Milk Production

2005 Specialty Crops County Estimates

The USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office released county estimates for the 2005 pulse crops and oilseeds. This is the seventh year of the data series. County-level data are not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

All dry bean production for 2005 totaled 282,000 cwt. The South Central district produced the most, at 121,000 cwt, followed by the Northeast district with 82,000 cwt, and the Southeast district with 45,000 cwt. **Pinto bean** production during 2005 was 239,000 cwt. Carbon county had the highest pinto bean production with 67,000 cwt. Dawson and Yellowstone tied for second place with 37,000 cwt each and Broadwater county produced 31,000 cwt. The South Central district produced the largest crop of pinto beans with 121,000 cwt, followed by the Southeast district with 45,000 cwt. As for **garbanzo beans**, Valley county produced the most at 14,000 cwt and Sheridan produced 10,600 cwt. Garbanzo bean production in 2005 totaled 43,000 cwt.

Sheridan was the number one **lentil**-producing county again in 2005, with 850,000 cwt harvested. The number two county was Daniels with total production of 521,000 cwt and third was Roosevelt with 145,000 cwt. Growers from the Northeast district produced 93 percent of the state's lentil crop. Total production for 2005 amounted to 1.87 million cwt. **Dry edible**

pea estimates indicate that Daniels county was the largest producer in 2005 with 568,000 cwt, followed by Valley county at 438,000 cwt, and Sheridan county at 408,000 cwt. Northeast district farmers produced 84 percent of the state's dry peas. Glacier was the leading county in **Austrian winter pea** production during 2005 with 36,000 cwt and Liberty county was second with 18,000 cwt produced. The North Central district produced 53 percent of the state's Austrian winter peas in 2005.

Daniels was by far the largest **canola**-producing county in 2005 with 7.6 million pounds, or 36 percent of the state's canola production. The second largest was Pondera with 3.2 million pounds, followed by Toole with 1.9 million pounds. The Northeast district produced 50 percent of the crop. Richland was the number one **safflower** producing county with 8.9 million pounds. The next leading county was Roosevelt with 4.0 million pounds, followed by Dawson's production of 3.3 million pounds. Seventy-nine percent of the state's safflower was produced in the Northeast district.

Daniels led the state in **flaxseed** production for 2005 with 266,000 bushels. The next largest county was Valley with 254,000 bushels, followed by Sheridan county at 252,000 bushels. Ninety-four percent of the state's flaxseed was produced in the Northeast district. Montana's total **sunflower** production was 7.4 million pounds in 2005. Wibaux county produced the most with 1.6 million pounds followed by Valley county with 1.2 million pounds. The Northeast district accounted for 4.6 million pounds or 63 percent of the total production. Valley county led the state in **mustard seed** production with 1.5 million pounds. Eighty-five percent of Montana's mustard seed was produced in the Northeast district.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted and harvested acres by county, district, and state levels are now available. They are available in printed form or can be

accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Field Office of USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2005. Thanks to those who participated!

April 1, 2006 Montana and U.S. Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 1.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2006, down 11 percent from the previous year. Fifty percent of the 2005 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 54 percent a year ago.

The 13 major potato States held 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2006, down 11 percent from last year and 9 percent below April 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 259 million cwt from the start of harvest to April 1, is down 5 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt, is down 20 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 133 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 3 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 27.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 10 percent below the same date in 2004. (continued on page three)

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	TOTAL	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Number of farms and ranches	28,000	farms/ranches	2005	30	1.3
Land in farms and ranches	60,100,000	acres	2005	2	6.4
Average Farm Size	2,146	acres	2005	4	N/A
INCOME FROM CASH RECEIPTS, EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS					
Total	2,238,980	thousand dollars	2004	33	0.9
Livestock	1,278,045	thousand dollars	2004	31	1.0
Crops	960,935	thousand dollars	2004	31	0.8
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle and Calves	2,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 2006	12	2.5
All cows	1,470,000	head	Jan. 1, 2006	9	3.5
Beef Cows	1,451,000	head	Jan. 1, 2006	7	4.4
Milk Cows	19,000	head	Jan. 1, 2006	39	0.2
Cattle on Feed	55,000	head	Jan. 1, 2006	24	0.4
All Sheep and Lambs	295,000	head	Jan. 1, 2006	6	4.7
Breeding Sheep	270,000	head	Jan. 1, 2006	5	5.8
Meat Goats	9,000	head	Jan. 1, 2006	35	0.4
Milk Goats	2,780	head	Jan. 1, 2006	29	1.0
Hogs and Pigs	175,000	head	Dec. 1, 2005	25	0.3
Chickens	480,000	head	Dec. 1, 2005	38	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,480,000	head	2005	8	3.9
Lamb Crop	275,000	head	2005	4	6.7
Pig Crop	319,000	head	2005	27	0.3
Wool Production	2,490,000	pounds	2005	6	6.7
Egg Production	106,000,000	eggs	2005	38	0.1
Honey Production	8,710,000	pounds	2005	6	5.0
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	192,480,000	bushels	2005	3	9.1
Winter Wheat	94,500,000	bushels	2005	5	6.3
Durum Wheat	16,380,000	bushels	2005	2	16.2
Other Spring Wheat	81,600,000	bushels	2005	2	16.2
Barley	39,200,000	bushels	2005	3	18.5
Oats	1,855,000	bushels	2005	15	1.6
All Hay	5,850,000	tons	2005	9	3.9
Alfalfa Hay	3,850,000	tons	2005	7	5.1
Other Hay	2,000,000	tons	2005	15	2.7
Dry Beans	282,000	cwt	2005	13	1.0
Pinto Beans	239,000	cwt	2005	10	1.8
Garbanzo Beans	43,000	cwt	2005	7	4.0
Lentils	1,869,000	cwt	2005	2	36.2
Dry Edible Peas	2,196,000	cwt	2005	2	15.7
Austrian Winter Peas	159,000	cwt	2005	1	51.8
Fall Potatoes	3,434,000	cwt	2005	15	0.9
Sugar Beets	1,143,000	tons	2005	6	4.1
Flaxseed	918,000	bushels	2005	2	4.7
Safflower	25,810,000	pounds	2005	2	13.4
Canola	21,285,000	pounds	2005	3	1.3
Corn for Grain	2,516,000	bushels	2005	40	1/
Corn for Silage	1,104,000	tons	2005	24	1.0
1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.					

April 1, 2006 Potato Stocks (continued from front page)

Western States held 85.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 7 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 18 percent from last year, Colorado's potato sheds held 13 percent less than last year, Montana's stocks dropped 11 percent from last season, and stocks in California decreased 22 percent from 2005. Washington's potato stocks are up 11 percent from last year and Oregon's stocks increased 37 percent from last season.

Central States accounted for 20.9 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, down 27 percent from last year for comparable States. North Dakota's potato stocks decreased 53 percent from last year and Minnesota's stocks are down 31 percent from 2005. Michigan and Wisconsin potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2005.

Eastern States stored 7.30 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Maine's potato sheds held 9 percent less than last year, while New York's potato stocks increased 67 percent from a year ago.

March 2006 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2006, down 8 percent from February 2006, but 8 percent above March 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,159 pounds, decreased 6 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, dropped 12 pounds from last year. March sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, down 100 head from March 2005. The average live weight increased 31 pounds to 120 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.11 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in March 2005.

Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.85 million head, up 5 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, slightly above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59,200 head, down 13 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was 42 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, 3 percent above March 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 6 percent from March 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 249,700 head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2006 commercial red meat production was 11.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up slightly.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on April 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above April 1, 2005 and 10 percent above April 1, 2004. This is the highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.74 million steers and steer calves, up 11 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.0 million head, up 5 percent from 2005.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.84 million, 5 percent above 2005 and 1 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.75 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 342,000,

700-799 pounds were 565,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 550,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.96 million, down slightly from 2005 and slightly below 2004. Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during March, 32 percent above 2005 and 34 percent above 2004.

U.S. March Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.84 billion during March 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.73 billion table eggs, and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 69 million were egg-type. The number of layers during March 2006 averaged 350 million, up 1 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,239 eggs, up slightly from March 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2006, totaled 350 million, up 2 percent from last year. The 350 million layers consisted of 292 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2006, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2006 totaled 38.9 million, down 7 percent from March 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.8 million on April 1, 2006, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 286,000 during March 2006, down 9 percent from March 2005.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2006 totaled 817 million, up slightly from March 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 659 million on April 1, 2006, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.01 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2006, down 1 percent from March 2005.

March Milk Production Up 5.5 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 14.6 billion pounds, up 5.5 percent from March 2005. February revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 5.9 percent from February 2005. The February revision represented a decrease of 7 million

pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,773 pounds for March, 66 pounds above March 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.22 million head, 124,000 head more than March 2005, and 17,000 head more than February 2006.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 45.5 billion pounds, up 5.0 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.09 million head, 91,000 head more than the same period last year.

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10 W. 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, Montana 59626

406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612

www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov